

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the present application. Claims 1-15 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1-15 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Hamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0105427).

§ 112, second paragraph, Rejections - Claims 1-15

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, based on the reasons set forth on pages 3-6 of the present Office Action.

First, Applicant thanks the Examiner for agreeing to discuss the rejections of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, with the Applicant's representatives on June 15, 2007. Applicant believes that the interview will help clarify the claimed invention and how it satisfies 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicant submits that claims 1 and 2 satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, based on the reasons set forth in numbered paragraph 12 of the Office Action. Specifically, the Examiner alleges:

It is unclear where to add the limitations of claim 3 to the system of claim 1. It is unclear what is meant by "emotion and condition information" by this limitation. Claim 1 recites "emotion/condition."

In response, Applicant submits that claim 3 recites that the input section maps "said one of the emotion and condition information of the communication service users into the emotion map." Applicant submits that this feature describes, for example, that an input section maps

emotion or condition information of communication users into an emotion map. Applicant believes that claim 3 satisfies 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim 4 is rejected based on the reasons set forth in numbered paragraph 13 of the Office Action. In response, Applicant submits that claim 4 satisfies 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, at least based on reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 3.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, based on the reasons set forth in numbered paragraph 14 of the Office Action. Specifically, the Examiner alleges:

The steps of claim 5 do not meet the goal of the preamble of the independent claim 1. Claim 5 appears circular in nature. One must question the “emotion/condition analysis module” based on “proximity degree of the coordinate values. What is “proximity degree of the coordinate values”? How is the “predetermined range based on the proximity degree measured”?

Applicant submits that the proximity degree of the coordinate values reflects the nearness of the coordinate values to one another, which is used to determine the similarity of difference between coordinate values within a predetermined range.

Independent claim 8 is rejected based on the reasons set forth in numbered paragraph 16 of the Office Action. Specifically, the Examiner alleges:

In claim 8, it is unclear what is meant by “determining one of a similarity and difference among the users...predetermined information axes”?

In response, Applicant submits that the predetermined axes are, for example, shown in Fig. 6. For example, one axis can be “I want to be alone” and another axis can be, for example, “I want to meet someone.”

Similarly with respect to claim 9, Applicant submits that this claim satisfies 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, based on the reasons set forth in numbered paragraph 18. Specifically, the Examiner alleges:

In claim 10, it is unclear what is meant by “generating events specified previously in accordance with an attribute...” How does one identify “attribute of a group”?

In response, Applicant submits that an event can be, for example, a meeting or an automatically sent message. *See numbered paragraph 68 of specification.* An attribute can be, for example, “I want to meet someone,” as set forth in Fig. 6.

§ 102(a) Rejections (Hamamoto) - Claims 1-15

Claims 1-15 are rejected over Hamamoto based on the reasons set forth on pages 6-11 of the present Office Action. Applicant traverses these rejections at least based on the following reasons.

A brief description of Hamamoto follows.

Hamamoto is directed to a communication apparatus that includes a transmitter and a receiver for communicating communication data containing transmission data transmitted from an operator; and a data (physical data of his/her surrounding environment) analyzer for outputting a mental state and/or a physiological condition of the operator by estimating it based on the communication data. The communication apparatus enables smooth communication between a sending end and a receiving end. The communication apparatus has a transmitter 11 in which communication data 12 including transmission data such as sound data and image data are inputted and is transmitted; a receiver 13 which receives and outputs the transmitted communication data 12; and a data (physical data of surroundings) analyzer 14 as an estimating section which extracts and estimates data indicative of a state of an operator, or physical data of

surrounding environment from the transmitted data and outputs the estimation as an estimated quantity.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant submits that Hamamoto does not disclose or suggest at least a community service providing system comprising inter alia, “an input section through which one of emotion and condition information of communication service users is input,” and “an output section which provides said generated events to said communication service users,” as recited in claim 1. As indicated above, Hamamoto is directed to a communication apparatus for receiving communication data from an individual operator. Said communication apparatus has only an interface for showing data to said individual operator. Differently, the present invention, as recited in claim 1, is directed to a system that comprises, inter alia, an input section through which one of emotion and condition information of communication service users (plural) is input. Thus, more than one user is inputting the information. Yet further, the present invention, as recited in claim 1, recites an output section which provides said generated events to said communication service users. As indicated above, the communication apparatus of Hamamoto only has an interface for providing information to an individual operator, based on information provided by the individual operator. Therefore, at least because the above discussed features are not disclosed or suggested by Hamamoto, Applicant submits that Hamamoto does not anticipate claim 1.

Applicant submits that independent claim 8 is patentable at least based on reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-7 and 9-15 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 8.

With respect to claim 2, at least based on reasons similar to those set forth above, Applicant submits that Hamamoto does not disclose or suggest an output section for transmitting one of the emotion map processed through the emotion analysis module and/or condition analysis module and information related to the generation of events, to the communication service users.

With respect to dependent claim 3, since the apparatus of Hamamoto is directed to data related to an individual operator, clearly Hamamoto does not disclose or suggest an input section that maps said one of the emotion and condition information of the communication service users into the emotion map.

With respect to dependent claim 5, Applicant submits that Hamamoto does not disclose or suggest at least, “a coordinate value determining unit for determining at least one of a similarity and a difference between said coordinate values within a predetermined range based on the proximity degree measured by the coordinate value comparing unit,” as recited in claim 5. The Examiner cites page 5, col. 1, numbered paragraph 72 of Hamamoto as allegedly satisfying the above-quoted feature of claim 5. The cited portion of Hamamoto only describes that judgment of the operator’s characteristics is based on particular criteria, and can be changed according to physical data such as individual differences, age, and temperature. There is no teaching or suggestion that the proximity degree measured by a coordinate value comparing unit is used to determine a similarity or a difference between the coordinate values.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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A further difference between the claimed invention and Hamamoto is the claimed invention represents user emotion a condition information or coordinate values (see claims 1 and 8), but the reference invention displays a single set of user information.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

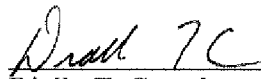
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